

IMPACT

Working together at Royal Roads University

SPRING 2018 IN THIS ISSUE



A Noble cause

Staff and faculty create a fund at Royal Roads to inspire pint-sized scientists every year.



Peninsula Co-op Award

A new student award recognizes the importance of local community leadership and life-long learning.



Alumnus Diane Bergeron

Life.Changing: how a Royal Roads degree led to a passion for high endurance sports.



Welcome to the team, Andrea

Andrea Boyes joins the Advancement team at Royal Roads University.



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

PINT-SIZED SCIENTISTS LEARN TO LOVE THE LAB THROUGH THE NOBLE FUND

Staff and faculty in the School of Environment and Sustainability create a new fund to support elementary school outreach

There's serious science happening in Dr. Mickie Noble's laboratory. About twenty small scientists observe pond water with a microscope and carefully pour colourful liquids from test tubes to beakers.

Noble stands in the middle of the action, clad in a tie-dyed lab coat and a delighted expression. This is the eighteenth year Noble, an assistant professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability, has opened her lab to elementary students.

"We give kids a chance to experience what science is and what scientists do," says Noble. "It's about helping kids look at science and think, 'You know what? I could do that. That would be really cool to do when I grow up.'"

"I waited four years for this opportunity to bring my kindergartners to the Royal Roads lab, I can't bring all this to my classroom, but they can experience it here."

Jeni-Lynn Blackie teaches this crop of kindergarten scientists at Brentwood Elementary.

"I waited four years for this opportunity to bring my kindergartners to the Royal Roads lab," Blackie says. "I can't bring all this to my classroom, but they can experience it here."

The laboratory visit program welcomes eight classes a year, where kids do various experiments from culturing the germs on their own hands to blowing up gummy bears.

The program is well-regarded at Royal Roads; funding came from various areas over the years but was never guaranteed.

thing entirely for the people you work with to not only be generous enough to support us with their time, but also with their funds."



"We give kids a chance to experience what science is and what scientists do."

The lab visits will now continue well into the future, thanks to the Noble School Lab Visit Fund. Faculty and staff from the School of Environment and Sustainability created the new fund and are donating via payroll deductions.

"It is very gratifying that my colleagues feel the program has real value to them," Noble says.

"It's one thing to think your program has value; it's another



Noble says her ultimate goal of creating future scientists seems to be working.

"We are corrupting them one class at a time," she says with a chuckle.



NEW STUDENT AWARD:

Peninsula Co-op Award

Creating opportunities for people making a difference in local neighbourhoods



The familiar Peninsula Co-op stations along Vancouver Island highways offer motorists a chance to refuel. Now the co-operative is reaching out to help Royal Roads students who are doing some educational refueling as well.

The new Peninsula Co-op Award at Royal Roads University was established to provide a \$1,000 scholarship to three students each year who have made leadership contributions in their local communities.

Peninsula Co-op, whose core business includes gas stations, convenience stores and home heating, cites building strong communities as its mission and sees support for education as a good fit.

“Peninsula Co-op has a long history of providing scholarships. This rounds out nicely our involvement,” says Patti Hunter, Peninsula Co-op board member and chair of the member and community relations committee. She added that Royal Roads’ mission and its programs align with the co-op’s ideals.

The co-operative gives scholarships to the University of Victoria and Camosun College, but the award at Royal Roads is different in that it is aimed at learners at all stages, rather than only first-year students.

At Royal Roads, the average student age is 40 and 70 per cent of students are mid-career professionals in graduate programs.

As many alumni know, the Royal Roads experience can lead to profound life changes, from career transitions to new, less expected opportunities.

Peninsula Co-op Board of Directors President Paul Hames knows firsthand the value of a Royal Roads education. A veteran Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer, he enrolled in Royal Roads’ first program—a master’s degree in leadership and training—in 1998 while he was posted in Ottawa.

“I was looking for the opportunity to take the next step,” Hames recalls. He was hired as chief constable with the Central Saanich Police, retiring from that post in 2015. “My experience at Royal Roads opened my eyes to life-long learning,” he says.

Hames used the skills learned from his Royal Roads degree to explore later opportunities including a senior police leadership program, the chance to join a Canadian delegation travelling with a holocaust survivor to Auschwitz, and another trip with a group going to South Africa to share conflict resolution experience.

“Moving ahead by giving back,” is Peninsula Co-op’s memorable slogan, one that Hames and Royal Roads heartily support.

To find out how you can start your own student award at Royal Roads, contact Amy Hinrichs in Advancement at 250-391-2529.

Anyone can support the Noble Fund

Donate online
or make a payroll contribution
advancement.royalroads.ca

For more information, contact: Andrea Boyes
250.391.2561



DIANE BERGERON



Perhaps the most surprising thing Diane Bergeron says about her degree from Royal Roads University is that it gave her a passion for high endurance sports.

She found herself spinning around in the sunshine, feeling its warmth on her face, and suddenly she had the urge to sprint. One thing led to another and before long she found herself running races that left her bloodied and in pain. (She swears it's a lot of fun.)

Looking back, Bergeron marvels at everything she might have missed if she had let one little thing like the cost of school stop her.

Eight years ago, she was in her mid-40s, married with two young teens, and feeling stalled in her career. The competing demands on her time were daunting enough, but when she thought about returning to school there was her age. And the cost. Bergeron requires a guide dog, and needs access to special books.

You name it, the 53-year-old seems to have done it. Triathlons. The Iron Man. Dragon Boat racing. In the course of a phone conversation from her home in Ottawa, she casually mentions rappelling down a building and organizing a relay team for blind athletes like herself.

Not that she isn't pleased that her Master of Arts in Leadership Studies took her from being a mid-level administrator to a role as executive director of strategic relations and engagement for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. But she says her experience with Royal Roads gave her much more than a career boost.

Bergeron recalls that she was walking across campus to the beach with friends. She let her service dog Max off his leash for a romp and found that she also wanted to do something she hadn't done in years: run.

"It was a real 'the hills are alive with the sound of music' moment," she says.

But as she waived, she found she was eligible for student awards and scholarships (and she received three.) That one thing made all the difference.

Which isn't to say it was easy for her to graduate on time, with distinction. For two years, Bergeron began her days at 4:30 a.m. to squeeze in studying before heading to her full-time job. And she worked nights and weekends on her degree, as her children learned to make dinner.

"It helped me uncover an adventurous streak," she says, adding that it also taught her something else surprising. "Sometimes it's the littlest thing that helps you step out of your comfort zone."

It would be easy to describe Bergeron as exceptional, but she is the first to say that isn't true: her theory is that the opportunity those awards and scholarships gave her played a big part.

"There are a lot of exceptional people out there who can't go on to reach the peak of their possibilities because they don't have money," Bergeron says. "And that's a shame."

INTRODUCING Andrea Boyes

Although Andrea Boyes is the newest member of our Advancement team she is no stranger to Royal Roads University.

She completed her Master of Arts in Professional Communication in 2013 before travelling the length and breadth of Canada with our Student Recruitment team for five years.

Andrea is a long-time volunteer for Special Olympics and, in what little spare time remains in her busy schedule, she can be found raising chickens and working to bring back the lost art of roller disco.

